

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

recognition means for recognizing a status of a
printing apparatus; and

5 decision means for, in a case of assigning at least
a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by
the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in
accordance with the status recognized by said
recognition means, deciding the other printing apparatus
10 in accordance with a paper ejection type of the other
printing apparatus.

2. The information processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the print job comprises a distributed
15 job.

3. The information processing apparatus according to
claim 2 further comprising acknowledging means for
acknowledging a paper ejection type of the other
20 printing apparatus,

wherein said decision means decides the other
printing apparatus on the basis of an acknowledgement by
said acknowledging means of the paper ejection type of
the other printing apparatus.

25

4. The information processing apparatus according to
claim 2 further comprising reassignment means for

assigning at least a part of the distributed job to another printing apparatus,

wherein said reassignment means assigns at least the part of the distributed job to the other printing
5 apparatus decided by said decision means.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said acknowledging means acknowledges the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus
10 on the basis of information indicative of a paper ejection type obtained via a predetermined communication line.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said acknowledging means obtains
15 information indicative of the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus from a printer driver which generates print data interpretable by a printing apparatus.

20

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paper ejection type represents a direction of surface of ejected paper, and the direction is face-up or face-down.

25

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paper ejection type is an output

order of pages, and the output order is ascending or descending.

9. The information processing apparatus according to
5 claim 2, wherein said decision means decides to assign
at least a part of the distributed job to a
predetermined printing apparatus in a case of assigning
at least the part of the distributed job supposed to be
printed by the printing apparatus in accordance with the
10 status recognized by said recognition means.

10. The information processing apparatus according to
claim 9, wherein the predetermined printing apparatus is
a printing apparatus to which no distributed job has
15 been assigned.

11. The information processing apparatus according to
claim 9 further comprising designation means for
designating to printout at least the part of the
20 distributed job to a predetermined bin of the
predetermined printing apparatus decided by said
decision means.

12. The information processing apparatus according to
25 claim 2 further comprising determination means for, in a
case of assigning at least the part of the distributed
job supposed to be printed by the printing apparatus to